

CLAIMS

1. A program-distributable combination weighing apparatus comprising:

a weighing machine including a plurality of weighing units

5 constituting the combination weighing apparatus;

a communication device for receiving a predetermined control program via a communication medium; and

a weighing machine control portion for controlling an operation of the weighing machine according to the control program.

2. The program-distributable combination weighing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication medium is selected from the group consisting of a local area network, a wide area network, a public line, Internet, a value added network, a commercial network, and combinations thereof.

3. The program-distributable combination weighing apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the communication device is selected from the group consisting of a modem, a terminal adapter, and a router.

4. The program-distributable combination weighing apparatus according to any of Claims 1 to 3, further comprising temporary storage means for storing the control program received via the communication medium.

5. The program-distributable combination weighing apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising control program storage means for storing the control program executed by the weighing

machine control portion and control program saving means for saving the control program stored in the control program storage means.

5 6. The program-distributable combination weighing apparatus according to Claim 5, further comprising control program returning means for returning the control program saved in the control program saving means to the control program storage means.

10 7. The program-distributable combination weighing apparatus according to any of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the communication device receives the control program using a protocol selected from the group consisting of TCP/IP, IPX/SPX, NetBEUI, NetBIOS, and AppleTalk.

15 8. The program-distributable combination weighing apparatus according to any of Claims 1 to 7, wherein the plurality of weighing units are respectively provided with unit control portions, the control program received by the communication device includes
20 unit control programs for controlling the weighing units, and the weighing machine control portion distributes the unit control programs received by the communication device to the respective unit control portions.

25 9. A combination weighing system comprising:

a combination weighing apparatus including a weighing machine having a plurality of weighing units constituting the combination weighing apparatus, a communication device for receiving a predetermined program via a communication medium, and

30 a weighing machine control portion for controlling an operation

of the weighing machine according to the control program;

a server computer that includes a central communication device for performing communication with the communication device and distributes the control program; and

- 5 a communication medium via which communication is performed between the communication device and the central communication device.

- 10 10. The combination weighing system according to Claim 9, wherein the communication medium is selected from the group consisting of a local area network, a wide area network, a public line, Internet, a value added network, a commercial network, and combinations thereof.

- 15 11. The combination weighing system according to Claim 9 or 10, wherein the communication device of the combination weighing apparatus is selected from the group consisting of a modem, a terminal adapter, and a router.

- 20 12. The combination weighing system according to any of Claims 9 to 11, wherein the combination weighing apparatus further includes temporary storage means for storing the control program received via the communication medium.

- 25 13. The combination weighing system according to Claim 12, wherein the combination weighing apparatus further includes control program storage means for storing the control program executed by the weighing machine control portion and control program saving means for saving the control program stored in the
30 control program storage means.

14. The program-distributable combination weighing system according to Claim 13, further comprising control program returning means for returning the control program saved in the control program saving means to the control program storage means.

15. The combination weighing system according to any of Claims 9 to 14, wherein the communication device receives the control program using a protocol selected from the group consisting of TCP/IP, IPX/SPX, NetBEUI, NetBIOS, and AppleTalk.

16. The combination weighing system according to any of Claims 9 to 15, wherein unit control portions for respectively controlling the plurality of weighing units are provided, the control program received by the communication device includes unit control programs for controlling the weighing units, and the weighing machine control portion distributes the unit control programs included in the control program received by the communication device to the respective unit control portions.